[Translation]

Free Rail Passes

4058. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide free railway passes to the accredited journalists of Press Information Bureau; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sugarcane Crop

4059. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugarcane crop in the South Gujarat was inflicted with the diseases, last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to provide relief and other assistance to the farmers of South Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sugarcane crops in South Gujarat was affected by wilt and red rot diseases during 1995-96. Out of total area of 90,953 ha. under the crop, an area of 11,615 hectare was affected by these diseases.

(c) Training of extension workers and farmers have been organized by the State Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the State Agriculture University to educate the farmers about various remedial measures, viz.

1. Use of healthy seed.
2. Use of treated seed with fungicide.
3. Use of moist hot air treated seeds.
4. To grow wilt resistant varieties.
5. To adopt crop rotation with rice and green manure crops.
6. To avoid rationing if disease is observed in the planted crop.
7. Removal of disease affected plants in the initial stages of the disease.
8. To maintain proper drainage in the sugarcane fields.

Assistance has also been extended to strengthen the facilities for training, heat treatment units, tissue culture, seed multiplication programme etc., to combat the disease problems.

Assistance for Pollution Control

4060. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any scheme to provide assistance to the Government of Gujarat for controlling Industrial and Environmental pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for the said purpose during each of the last three years, plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) The Union Government has the following schemes for controlling industrial and environmental pollution under which the Government of Gujarat can avail of assistance :

(i) Reimbursement of Water Cess to State Pollution Control Boards for pollution control measures and assisting industrial units in the adoption of clean process technologies and sewage treatment systems in Class II and Class III towns.

(ii) Assistance for abatement of pollution—Grants-in-aid to Pollution Control Boards, State Government and Institutions for specific pollution related projects and schemes and research studies;

(iii) Common Effluent Treatment Plants;

(iv) Externally aided pollution control schemes (World Bank projects);

(v) Environmental Audit;

(vi) Environmental Statistics and Mapping;

(vii) Clean technologies by Small Scale Industries;

(viii) National River Conservation Projects.

(c) No amount is allocated for any of the States under these schemes. However, the Government of Gujarat has availed of assistance under some of the schemes during the last three years.